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November 2020

## Finding Aid for the Square Books Collection (MUM00428)

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### Recommended Citation

Square Books Collection, Archives and Special Collections, J.D. Williams Library, The University of Mississippi

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# Finding Aid for the Square Books Collection (MUM00428)

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The Square Books Collection is open for research.

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## Finding Aid for the Square Books Collection

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### Descriptive Summary

<b>Title:</b>	Square Books Collection
<b>Dates:</b>	1993-2006
<b>Collector:</b>	Square Books (Bookstore)
<b>Physical Extent:</b>	3 boxes (1.5 linear feet)
<b>Repository:</b>	University of Mississippi. Department of Archives and Special Collections. University, MS 38677, USA
<b>Identification:</b>	MUM00428
<b>Location:</b>	General Special Collections
<b>Language of Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The collection contains news articles about Square Books, an independent bookstore in Oxford, Miss., as well as promotional materials and newsletters issued by the store.

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### Administrative Information

#### Processing Information

Collection processed by Archives and Special Collections staff. Finding aid encoded by Kathryn Michaelis, January 2012.

## Additions

No further additions are expected to this collection.

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## Subject Terms

Square Books (Bookstore)  
Independent bookstores  
Bookstores -- United States

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## Formats

newsletters  
clippings (information artifacts)  
catalogs

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## Historical Note

Founded in 1979 by Richard and Lisa Howorth, "Square Books is a general independent bookstore in three separate buildings (about 100 feet apart) on the historic town square of Oxford, Mississippi, home of the University of Mississippi and many great writers, including William Faulkner, Barry Hannah, Larry Brown, and, for a time, both Willie Morris and John Grisham. The main store, Square Books, is in a two-story building with a cafe and balcony on the second floor; Off Square Books is a few doors down from the main store and has lifestyle sections such as gardening and cookbooks; and Square Books Jr, the children's bookstore, is in a building on the east side of the square. Square Books is known for its strong selection of literary fiction, books on the American South and by Southern writers, a large inventory of reduced-price remainders, and its emphasis on books for children. The store hosts the popular Thacker Mountain radio show and over 150 author events a year."

(Taken from the [Square Books website](#))

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## Scope and Content Note

The collection contains news articles about Square Books, an independent bookstore in Oxford, Miss., as well as promotional materials and newsletters issued by the store.

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## User Information

### Preferred Citation

Square Books Collection, Archives and Special Collections, J.D. Williams Library, The University of Mississippi

### Access Restrictions

The Square Books Collection is open for research.

### Copyright Restrictions

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## **Related Material**

### **Resources at the University of Mississippi**

*Writer Comes to Town: a Serial Short Story by Oxford Writers*. Call number: PS558.M7 W75 2009. Housed in Archives and Special Collections, J.D. Williams Library.

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## **Arrangement**

This collection is arranged by format and chronologically within each format.

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## **Container List**

### **"Speed Reader" Email Newsletters**

- Folder 1.1 April 2003
- Folder 1.2 May 2003
- Folder 1.3 June 2003
- Folder 1.4 July 2003
- Folder 1.5 August 2003
- Folder 1.6 September 2003
- Folder 1.7 October 2003
- Folder 1.8 November 2003
- Folder 1.9 December 2003
- Folder 1.10 January 2004
- Folder 1.11 February 2004
- Folder 1.12 March 2004
- Folder 1.13 April 2004
- Folder 1.14 May 2004
- Folder 1.15 June 2004
- Folder 1.16 July 2004
- Folder 1.17 August 2004
- Folder 1.18 September 2004
- Folder 1.19 October 2004
- Folder 1.20 November 2004
- Folder 1.21 December 2004
- Folder 1.22 January 2005

Folder 1.23 February 2005  
Folder 1.24 March 2005  
Folder 1.25 April 2005  
Folder 1.26 May 2005  
Folder 1.27 June 2005  
Folder 1.28 September 2005  
Folder 1.29 2006

### **"Dear Reader" Newsletters**

*Scope:* Each folder contains assorted issues from a given year.

Folder 2.1 1991  
Folder 2.2 1992  
Folder 2.3 1993  
Folder 2.4 1994  
Folder 2.5 1995  
Folder 2.6 1996  
Folder 2.7 1997  
Folder 2.8 1998  
Folder 2.9 1999  
Folder 2.10 2000  
Folder 2.11 2001  
Folder 2.12 2002  
Folder 2.13 2003  
Folder 2.14 2004  
Folder 2.15 2005; March-April 2007

### **Miscellaneous Promotional Materials**

Folder 3.1 *At Random*, Spring 1993  
*Scope:* News publication from Random House publishing company. Includes article on Square Books, titled "At the Heart of Oxford, Mississippi are Books, Books, Books" (page 76).

Folder 3.2 Photocopy of "Book Notes," a column by Richard Howorth, taken from *Oxford Town*, 23-29 September 1993  
*Scope:* Column discusses publisher Seymour Lawrence

Folder 3.3 *New Yorker* article citing Square Books, July or August 1995

Folder 3.4 Program for event, "Arthur Miller, American Writer," 17 October 1995

Folder 3.5 Square Books holiday catalog, December 1999

Folder 3.6 *USA Today* feature on Square Books, 3 August 1999

Folder 3.7 Bookmark advertising book signing, *'Tis*, by Frank McCourt, 12 January [2000?]

Folder 3.8 Square Books holiday catalog, 2001

Folder 3.9 Square Books holiday catalog, 2003

Folder 3.10 Off-Square Books fliers, February 2003

Folder 3.11 Square Books holiday catalog, 2004